



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: COHEN et al.

Examiner: Louie, Wai Sing

Serial No: 09/502,729

Group Art Unit: 2814

Filed: February 11, 2000

Docket: 728-163 (YOR999-573)

For: **DIFFUSION BARRIER  
LAYER AND SEMICONDUCTOR  
DEVICE CONTAINING SAME**

Dated: February 3, 2003

Box AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REPLY**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2002, please reconsider the application in light of the following remarks.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 7 being in independent form. In the Final Office Action dated November 6, 2002, Claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020919 (“Li et al.”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,235,456 (“Ibok”). Claims 7 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,228,761 (“Ngo, et al.”) in view of Li et al. and Ibok.

Independent Claim 1 recites a “diffusion barrier layer for semiconductor devices, the diffusion barrier layer having an upper surface and a lower surface and a central

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 3, 2003.

Dated: February 3, 2003

*Carol McAteer*  
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Response  
Step Two  
2/14/03*